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Labor problems and labor administration in the United States during the world war. Part I. Nature and analysis of problem. By Gordon S. Watkins. [University of Illinois, Studies in the social sciences] (Urbana: University of Illinois, 1920. 119 p. \$1.00)

Labor problems and labor administration in the United States during the world war. Part II. The development of war labor administration. By Gordon S. Watkins. [University of Illinois, Studies in the social sciences] (Urbana: University of Illinois, 1920. 121 p. \$1.00)

A heavy load was thrown suddenly on our industrial machine by the war, and the resulting strain tested the strength of the machine and searched out its weaknesses. The symptoms which thus developed hold great interest for the economic diagnostician. It is from the standpoint of seeking to know what is wrong with our industrial organization and to prescribe a remedy if possible that Mr. Watkins has approached the study of labor problems and labor administration during the war. His conclusions are expressed in the final chapter of his second volume, after he has made a record of the disturbances and dislocations of industry that were revealed by the war or that developed during it and after he has catalogued their apparent causes and has told what measures were taken by the government to meet them. He is led to favor "increased activity by the state as a party to industry," which, he says, "does not mean nor express a tendency toward collective ownership and operation of the instruments of production." The trend of Mr. Watkins' thinking is hopeful. He finds promise of better conditions in the activities of the war labor board, the war labor policies board, and the other public agencies which were set up during the war, and he thinks it "unfortunate" that congress has not seen fit to make permanent such "excellent agencies." "It was folly to abandon this new labor administration," he says bluntly. The author believes firmly in organization of workers. "The radical labor movement," he says, "is gaining strength among the unorganized." "If America is to avoid the spread of Bolshevism and other forms of anarchistic radicalism . . . a co-equal voice in the government of industry is a necessary prerequisite." Labor must also have a "just share in the division of the product." He hopes to see these things accomplished by "the new spirit which is being generated in industry."

H. E. G.

The despoilers. Stories of the North Dakota grain fields. By J. Edmund Buttree. (Boston: Christopher publishing house, 1920. 314 p. \$2.00)

Those among the reading public who are interested in the nonpartisan league will take up with pleasurable anticipation this latest book dealing with the league; they will probably lay it down, however, with a feeling of